Please replace page 8, paragraph 4, with the following paragraph:

The translation initiation site can be inserted upstream of the sequence corresponding to the gene of interest. Kozak sequences can be designed that can initiate translation in all three reading frames. See, for example, Murphy and Efstratiadias (1987) *Proc. Natl. Acad. Sci. USA, 84*:8277-8281. Generally, the Kozak sequence will comprise the consensus sequence recognized for initiation in higher eukaryotes. Such consensus sequence is GCCGCC$^{A}_{G}$CCAUGG (SEQ ID NO:18). This consensus sequence is repeated several times within the Kozak sequence to provide for the initiation of translation in all three reading frames.

Please replace page 8, paragraph 6, with the following paragraph:

It is recognized that a prokaryotic translation initiation site may also be used when appropriate; for example, when targeting a prokaryote. Such sequences include the Shine-Dalgarno sequence (UAAGGAGG (SEQ ID NO:19)), typically 5-10 bases upstream of the initiator AUG.

These amendments have been made in response to the Examiner's notice to comply with the requirements of 37 CFR 1.821 through 1.825 by submitting sequence listings for sequences set forth in the application as originally filed. Thus, no new matter has been incorporated, thereby.

In The Claims:

Please amend claims 1, 3, 4, 5, 10, 12, and 14, as follows:

1.   (Amended) A masked expression cassette comprising a double stranded nucleic acid molecule wherein a first strand comprises an RNA sequence which codes for a protein of interest linked downstream of a flanking sequence, and a translation initiation site operably inserted upstream of the RNA sequence; and,